

# LAURA SUMNER COON, Doctoral Candidate

## EDUCATION

Doctoral Candidate of Philosophy in Education Policy and Leadership | Marquette University  
*Milwaukee WI* | expected in 2023.

- Concentration: Equity and sociology of education
- Dissertation (in process): *Seeking equity: The parent factor*
- Committee: Dr. Sharon Chubbuck (chair), Dr. Cynthia Ellwood, Dr. Robert Lowe

Master of Nonprofit Management and Leadership | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
*Milwaukee WI* / December 2009

- Concentration: Nonprofit strategic and business planning
- Capstone Project: *Nonprofit business plan for SOAR of Racine Inc.*

Master of Pastoral Studies | Saint Francis Seminary | *Saint Francis, WI* / May 2005

- Concentration: Social justice, equity in education and Catholic social teaching
- Thesis: *The mission of Catholic education: Is it meeting the needs of the poor? A case study of San Juan Diego Middle School*

Bachelor of Arts | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee | *Milwaukee WI* / December 1980

- Major: Mass Communication-Journalism

Effective College Instruction Advanced Certificate | Association of College and University Educators | 2021

Effective College Teaching Practices Certificate | Association of College and University Educators | 2019

Mentoring Certificate | University of Wisconsin-Parkside | 2013

LaSallian Leadership Institute Certificate | LaSallian University of Pennsylvania | 2008

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Equity in education
- Social Justice issues
- Sociology of education
- Effects of social and cultural capital on educational outcomes
- Integration of parents in K-12 education
- Education Policy

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Numerous news stories in the *Journal Times*, Racine WI
- Numerous news stories in the former *Milwaukee Journal*, Milwaukee WI
- Numerous news stories in the *St. Cloud Daily Times*, St. Cloud MN

## **PRESENTATIONS and CONFERENCES**

Choice Schools Association & WCRIS: As a board member and later president of the Choice Schools Association, and as a coordinator for the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools, I was an intricate part of creating and presenting professional learning opportunities for administrators of private schools that would enable them to better understand how to use data to make educational decisions for their students, how to interpret the School Report Card overseen by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, how to participate responsibly in the Private School Choice Programs and Special Needs Scholarship Programs in Wisconsin.

Study Group: Organizer of a study group from Racine that participated in the United Nations Department of Public Information 57<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference: *Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action* | United Nations Headquarters, New York | September 2004

Gather to Learn, Gather to Celebrate. Co-Organizer and co-presenter with Region 9 communicator professionals. *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Communicators Network of Women Religious*, September 2004 | Milwaukee WI

United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals. Presenter. *City of Racine United Nations Day*, October 2004 | Racine WI

Christ at the United Nations. Presenter. *Justice and Mercy Will Kiss: A Conference on the Vocation of Peacemaking in a World of Many Faiths*, September 2005 | Marquette University | Milwaukee WI

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### *Undergraduate*

- Seminar: Introduction to the Teaching Profession
- Seminar: Teaching the Whole Child
- Seminar: Family, School and Community Partnerships
- Seminar: Learning Design and Assessment
- Child and Adolescent Development

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Adjunct Instructor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Spring 2015-2022

*Kenosha, Wisconsin*

- Instruct teacher candidates in a variety of courses, most of them concentrating on sociological issues entwined with learning
- Participated in faculty development opportunities, including a yearlong cohort in the *Effective College Instruction* certification program of the Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education

Host of *Community Matters & Education Matters*, WGTD FM91.1, Gateway Technical College

November 2018-2022

*Kenosha, Wisconsin*

- Research a variety of topics and host a talk show with topic guests in a rotation with two other hosts on the National Public Radio station

Freelance Writer/Editor and Education Consultant

2009-2022

- Work with nonprofit organizations and schools to strengthen their capacity and bolster their public image and programs

School Programs Coordinator, Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools

June 2017-June 2018

*Madison, Wisconsin*

- Worked with more than 50 private K-12 schools around the state to better understand state programs, particularly Private School Choice, Special Needs Scholarship Program and the state School Report Cards

Research Assistant, Marquette University

Spring-Summer 2017

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

- Conducted research for Sharon Chubbuck, PhD. and Cynthia Ellwood, Ph.D.

Founding Executive Director, SOAR of Racine Inc.

August 2009-June 2017

*Racine, Wisconsin*

- Led the creation and operation of SOAR of Racine Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to expanding access to quality education for marginalized students and to supporting their academic success with wrap-around services
- Provided administrative assistance to more than a dozen Racine schools involved in various state programs
- Trained various school administrators for participation in state programs
- Provided after-school support for more than 250 students

Executive Director and Development Director, San Juan Diego Middle School

February 2004-July 2009

*Racine, Wisconsin*

- Created and implemented strategic plans to grow a volunteer mentor corps, after-school programming, and financial support for the school

Communication/Development Director, Racine Dominicans

January 1999-February 2004

*Racine, Wisconsin*

- Led national and international communication projects of importance to the Racine Dominicans, most of which were related to social justice issues

Journalist/Editor, *Journal Times*

January 1988-January 1999

*Racine, Wisconsin*

- Served as Business Editor from 1994-1999, developing and writing local, state and national business coverage for the newspaper
- Served as City Editor from 1992-1994, supervising the local news staff and developing and editing daily news coverage
- Served as Night City Editor from 1989-1992, supervising the night staff and developing and editing daily news coverage
- Served as City Hall and Features Reporter from 1988-1989

Suburban Reporter, the former *Milwaukee Journal*

1984-1988

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

- Provided news coverage of a variety of municipal governments, school districts and feature interest stories, most for the Waukesha County editions

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Board Member and Fundraising Committee, Racine Literacy Council

July 2019-August 2022

*Racine, Wisconsin*

Board Member of Racine Women for Racial Justice and Co-Chair of the Justice Initiative,  
October 2020-October 2022

*Racine, Wisconsin*

Founding Member, Vice President, Spirit of Racine Music Makers Inc.

July 2020-Present

Former member and former President, Founders and Downtown Rotary Club

2007-2019

*Racine, Wisconsin*

Volunteer, Guatemala Medical Resources Partnership, an international Rotary project

2014, 2015 and 2016

*Oliveros, Guatemala*

Chairperson and member, the former Choice Schools Association

2014-2017

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Board Member, Bethany Apartments

2014-2015

*Racine, Wisconsin*

Member, Racine County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Committee

2013-2014

*Racine, Wisconsin*

Vice President, Racine Interfaith Coalition, Treatment Instead of Prison Task Force

2013-2014

*Racine, Wisconsin*

## **AWARDS**

First Place, Best Coverage of Civil Discourse and Change (A member of a team for the award)

Wisconsin Broadcasters Association | 2021 | *Kenosha Wisconsin*

YWCA Woman of Distinction-Human Rights, YWCA

2010 | *Racine Wisconsin*

Annual Media Award, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

1997 | *Racine Wisconsin*